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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/656,138

09/08/2003

Kimikazu Matsumoto

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EXAMINER

NGO, HUYEN LE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 01/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,138

Applicant(s)

MATSUMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Julie-Huyen L. Ngo

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/8/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of Species A and subspecies (I) (claim 1-2) in the reply filed on 11/15/04 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 3-8 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 11/15/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al. (US6259503B1).

Watanabe et al. teach (Fig. 11) forming an active matrix liquid crystal display device comprising:

- a pair of substrates 101/201 with a liquid crystal layer 301 between said substrates;
- a pixel electrode 104 and a common electrode 103 having a common longitudinal axis and that are arranged and adapted to generate an electric field parallel to said substrates in said liquid crystal layer, said liquid crystal layer having a nonzero initial alignment angle of 90 degrees relative to the common longitudinal axis;
- a thin film transistor having a source electrode and a drain electrode adjacent to a first part of said liquid crystal layer under protective layer 106, said source and drain electrodes inherently being arranged and adapted so that an electric field generated between said source and drain electrodes is one of substantially parallel to and perpendicular to the non-zero initial alignment angle, whereby an alignment of the first part of said liquid crystal layer does not change when an electric field is generated between said source and drain electrodes since the electric field generated between said source and drain electrodes is substantially parallel to the rubbing direction.

wherein

Claim 2:

- said source and drain electrodes are arranged and adapted so that an electric field generated between said source and drain electrodes is substantially parallel to the non-zero initial alignment angle, and wherein said source and

drain electrodes have facing edges that are parallel to each other and perpendicular to the non-zero-initial alignment angle as Fig. 11 shown.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Nishimura et al. (US 6704085 B2) disclose a liquid crystal display apparatus comprising the pixel electrode PX and the common signal electrode CE, a rubbing direction of the orientation film OR1, and a direction of a deflection transmitting axis of the polarizer POL).

Tomioka et al. (US 6682783 B1) disclose an active matrix type liquid crystal display apparatus with the rod-shaped liquid crystal molecules being controlled so as to oriented in a direction having a certain angle relative to the longitudinal direction.

Oaku et al. (US 6667077 B1) disclose an active matrix type liquid crystal display apparatus with utilizing the optical change of a liquid crystal layer generated by changing the orientating direction of the liquid crystal when an electric field is applied to the liquid crystal interposed between a pair of substrates.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Julie-Huyen L. Ngo whose telephone number is (571) 272-2295. The Examiner can normally be reached on T-Friday.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, Mr. Robert H. Kim can be reached at (571) 272-2293.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

December 29, 2004



Julie-Huyen L. Ngo
Primary Examiner